
VICTORIAN *ENTOMOLOGIST*

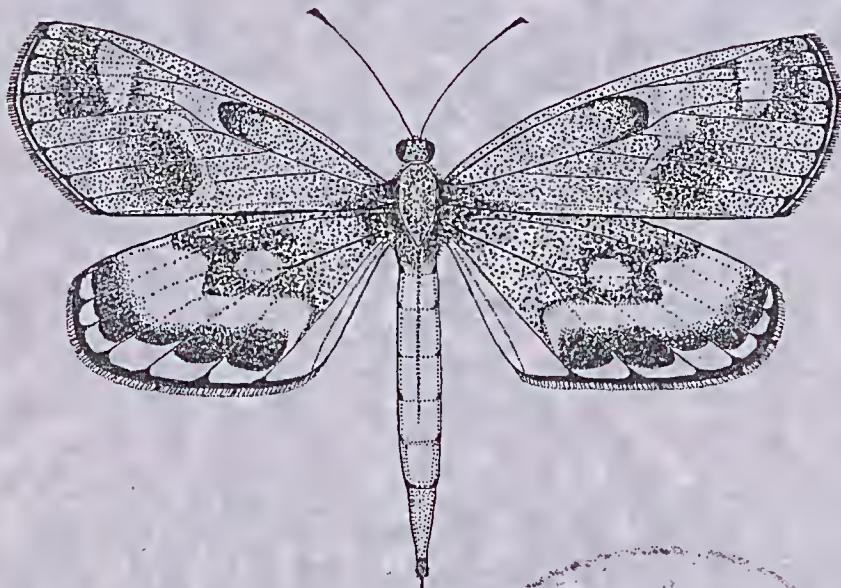


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News Bulletin of The Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at Melbourne Museum, downstairs at Infozone, Carlton, Melbourne: Melway reference Map 2B J10 at 8 p.m. on the third Friday of even months, with the possible exception of the December meeting which may be held earlier. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions. Tea and coffee facilities available at club meetings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Ordinary Member | \$20.00 (overseas members \$22) |
| Country Member | \$16.00 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne) |
| Student Member | \$12.00 |
| Associate Member | \$ 5.00 (No News Bulletin) |

Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

Cover design by Alan Hyman.

Cover illustration: The pale Sun Moth, *Synemon selene* Klug, is an endangered species restricted to perennial grassland dominated by *Austrodanthonia* in Western Victoria. It is now extinct in SA, and was presumed extinct in Vic. until its rediscovery, in February 1991, by the late Frank Noelker and Fabian Douglas. The Victorian Populations are parthenogenetic with all specimens comprising females, a most unusual trait in the Castniidae. Illustration by Michael F. Braby.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, 15th AUGUST 2003

Meeting opened 8.05 pm.

Present: A. Arnold, P. Carwardine, C. Chatman, L. Cookson, J. Deutscher, D. Dobrosak, F. Douglas, K. Dunn, I. Endersby, M. Endersby, R. Field, D. Hitton, A. Kallies, R. McMahon, P. Marriot, D. Stewart, T. Tantar, J. Tinetti, K. Walker, J. Wallen, J. Williams, P. Williams, I. Venenzuela.

Apologies: A. Kellehear, D. Holmes, C. Peterson

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
M: P. Carwardine, S: P. Marriot

Treasurer's Report:

Account balances are:

General account: \$7015

Le Souef account: \$3821

A further reminder about overdue subscriptions will be sent.

Editor's report:

Further articles are requested.

General business:

- Thanks to Museum Victoria and K. Walker for extending use of their facilities to the Society

Speaker:

Peter Marriot welcomed Fabian Douglas, noting his professional standing as the foremost authority on Victorian species of Sun-moths, and his initiatives in researching and protecting endangered species. Fabian has conducted extensive studies across Victorian habitats to document distribution, habitat needs and variation within species most of which are threatened in Victoria, several of which are specific to particular areas and conditions.

Further business:

1. P. Carwardine gave details of planned excursion to Gembrook, refer to minutes of July 2003 Council Meeting
2. New memberships of D. Hitton, A. Kallies, were welcomed.
3. Membership applications have been received from B. Medlin, N. Kicwa, and A. Rakimov

Meeting closed 9.45pm.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 19 SEPTEMBER 2003

The meeting was chaired by Vice President, Peter Marriot, and opened at 6.15pm.

Present: D. Dobrosak, I. Endersby, P. Carwardine, R. McMahon, P. Marriot, K. Walker.

Apologies: D. Steward

Minutes of the Council meeting 18 July 2003 were accepted (P. Carwardine, I. Endersby)

Correspondence:

Ian Endersby received a letter from Mary-Anne Ahern, Department of Education and Training, advising the society of the establishment of a database that provides a list of speakers who are willing to visit Victorian schools and speak to students on a variety of subjects. People wishing to register their name on such a database should email Mary at: maahearn@dodo.com.au

Treasurer's Report:

- Account balances are: General account \$6921; Le Souëf account \$3421.
- Seven subscriptions remain outstanding. A reminder will be sent.

Editor's Report:

- Some articles are in hands, but more are urgently requested.
- Peter Marriot discussed the inclusion of a summary of the talk that Fabian Douglas recently gave to the society. Peter has written an overview of the Victorian Castniidae and provided colour images of all Victorian species. Council decided to fund the cost of colour printing to include this article in the next edition of the magazine.

Web Master's Report:

- The web site has been updated with information on the next speaker.
- Discussions are underway to include PDF versions of past issues of the magazine on the web site. Issues presented on the website will be at least 2 years old.

Excursion Report:

- Peter Carwardine will publish details of the Gembrook excursion in the next magazine. The society will cover the accommodation costs.

Le Souëf Award:

- Council is still seeking additional information from the proposer of the only current application. Applications for the 2003 award close September 30, 2003. Council will call for new application early in 2004.

General Business:

1. With general meetings now held at Museum Victoria, it was suggested that tea and coffee be made available before the meeting between 7.30-8.00pm.
2. Council discussed possible speakers for 2004. These included talks on Butterfly Conservation, Lord Howe Island Stick Insect, Forensic Entomology, Eltham Copper Butterfly and a student research night. In addition, members could talk on Scesiidae moths, Noctuid moths, Beetles, Orthopterans and new entomological exhibitions.
3. Council has agreed to exchange the magazine with Trevor Hawkeswood's publication *Spilopyra*.
4. Council has agreed to allow EBSCO to place information about the Victorian Entomological society on their web site.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

A NOTE ON THE FIRST INSTAR LARVA OF *Ogyris idmo halmaturia* TEPPER
(LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE).

R. Grund
9 Parkers Rd, Torrens Park, Adelaide, S.A., 5062

Very little has been documented on the early stages of *Ogyris idmo*. However, it is known that the first instar larva of nominotypical *Ogyris idmo idmo* from Western Australia has numerous short papillose secondary setae (Field, 1999), and that simple dorsal setae and bristles are absent. The author recently collected a first instar larva of *O. idmo halmaturia* from Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. This larva was found to be very different to the larva of the nominotypical race by being densely covered in moderately long, bristly, simple secondary setae of about equal length, set on very short protuberant bases. The setae located on the upper part of the larva were mostly directed posteriorly. The long paired dorso-posterior bristles to be found on first instar larvae of *Ogyris subterrestris* (Field, 1999) were absent. The overall morphology of the larva was closer to that of *Ogyris otanes* than to *O. idmo idmo*.

The fact that other members of the *Ogyris idmo* species-group (comprising *O. genoveva*, *O. zosine*, *O. otanes* and *O. subterrestris*) have species-distinct first instar larvae would suggest that *O. idmo halmaturia* is likely to be a full species in its own right. This is further borne out by the very distinct morphological differences between the adults of the two *O. idmo* races, as noted by Field (1999) and Braby (2000).

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Field, R.P. 1999. A new species of *Ogyris* Angas (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from southern arid Australia. *Mem. Mus. Vict.* 57(2): 251-259.

Grund, R. 1999. Additional range extensions, new foodplant recordings and biology for some rarer butterflies from North-east Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. *Victorian Entomologist* 29(3): 45-50.

Hunt, L., Moore, M. & Moore, D. 1998. Discovery of *Ogyris idmo halmaturia* (Tepper 1890). *Victorian Entomologist* 28(6): 113-116.

SUGARING FOR MOTHS

Peter Carwardine

Sugaring is a method used by English moth collectors, it has varying results depending on weather etc. I have seen a report of it being used in Australia with poor results, but this may have been due to the wrong formula for our moths or the conditions were not right. Probably a lot more experimentation is required before it can be discounted. Perhaps some people may care to try it on the night excursion this month.

The English recipes that I have seen are all very similar. Boil together coarse brown sugar, treacle (not Golden Syrup), and stale beer, and just before application add a small quantity of rum and a little pear essence.

The mixture is applied with a paint brush in a vertical streak on the sheltered side of tree trunks and it must be of a consistency to spread easily and not too liquid to run down the trunk. High ground overlooking a timbered area or a valley is favoured. Weather conditions for favourable results are still, warm nights, dark and a clouded sky, previous hot weather and no more than a slight wind. The moths are picked off the 'sugar', and sometimes intoxicated ones are found on the ground.



EXCURSION TO GEMBROOK

DATE: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 2003.

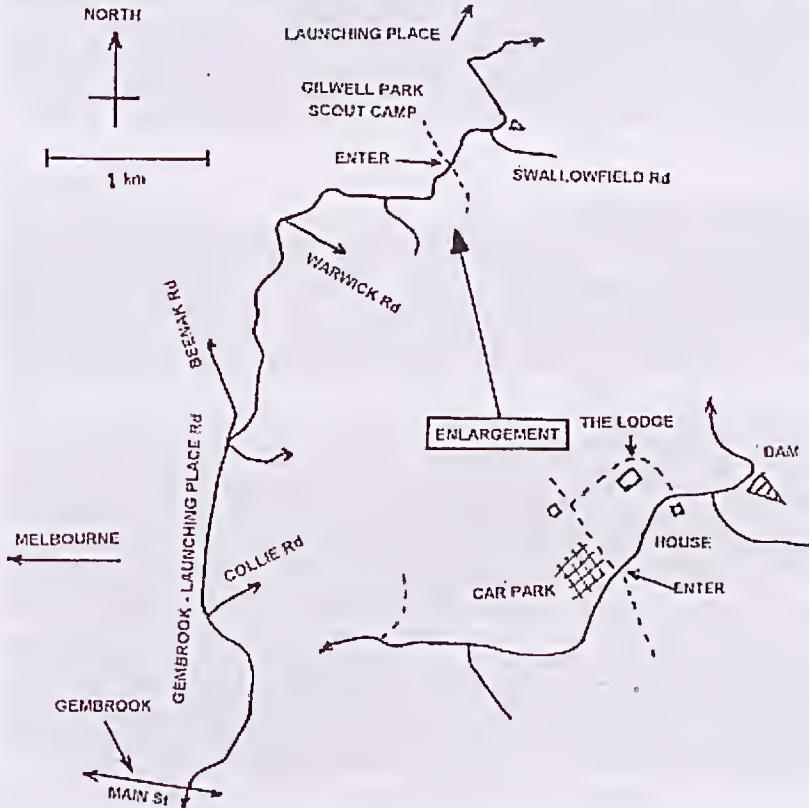
TIME: From 2 pm Saturday until Sunday afternoon.

PLACE: Gilwell Park Scout Camp.

Gilwell Park is on the Gembrook-Launching Place Road, 5½ km north of Gembrook (cnr of Main Street); Melways maps 312 and 512 R4/S4. It can also be reached via Launching Place on the Warburton Highway, Melways 287 F6. The entrance is on the left, about 200 m after the end of the sealed road, probably labelled Gate No. 4, Messmate Drive. There is a small number of 2 bunk huts available and there are camping facilities. There is a small kitchen, showers and toilets. Bring your own food, drink, linen and blankets or sleeping bag.

This night is meant as a night collecting excursion, however, if you can only stay Saturday afternoon and evening, or Sunday morning, you will be welcome. Electric power is available, however, if you have suitable collecting lights, please bring them with extension leads and other night collecting equipment.

Please Note: Collected specimens are to be used to make a voucher collection for retention at the Scout Park.. If you intend to stay overnight, please book with Peter Carwardine 9571 8958 by Tuesday 21st October, leave name, number in party and phone number.



Oviposition Behavior in *Suastus gremius* (Fabricius) in Viet Nam, with disussion of *Suastus*
(Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae: Hesperiinae) in Singapore

Kelvyn L. Dunn
e-mail: kelvyn_dunn@yahoo.com

Summary

Oviposition behavior, which included a minor backward crawl, is documented for the South-east Asian, palm-feeding skipper *Suastus gremius* (Fabricius) in Viet Nam, based on a single convenience observation. The egg is superficially described by unaided visual examination, and seems otherwise undocumented in contemporary off-line texts, however high quality illustrations of the whole life history are now available *online*. In addition, it is now proposed that the said, "likely fourth instar *Cephrenes acalle* larva" from a *Rhapis* sp. (Arecaceae) in Singapore (Dunn, 2000: 24) described and illustrated in that paper, belongs to *S. gremius*. *Rhapis* sp. prob. *excelsior* represents a new larval food plant for the species in south-east Asia.

Preamble

The enormous amount of otherwise unpublished Asian butterfly material, comprising biogeographical notes and superb life history images being placed *online* internationally, is quickly rendering the comparatively limited biological and behavioral data available in contemporary texts, such as Corbet and Pendlebury (1992), outdated. It is now unwise to rely solely on such without a thorough Internet search. Research consumers of unrefereed, *online* material, however, must judge for themselves whether images or notes (reliable or otherwise) actually pertain to the species claimed, frequently without measurable knowledge of site authors' expertise. Nevertheless, all *online* material cited in this communication (unless stated to the contrary) has been judged reliable, based on the author's own intuitive and experiential knowledge of butterflies in the Asian and Australian-Pacific regions. The proper noun 'Viet Nam' is used throughout this descriptive, qualitative study instead of 'Vietnam'. 'Viet Nam' is the official format in the Nam, and is accepted by the United Nations agencies, Bureau of Immigration and Population Research in Australia (Kristy, 1998).

Introduction

(1) Distribution of *Suastus* Moore in Asia

The genus *Suastus* Moore occurs from Sri Lanka and India, through Sundaland (Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Borneo, and Palawan - as defined by Corbet & Pendlebury, 1992: 21), to the Philippines and Lesser Sunda Islands (Corbet & Pendlebury, 1992). Three species are listed for the Malay Peninsula where all were formerly considered rare, however Singaporean butterfly photographer, Sin K. Kiew (2003) comments that in both Singapore and Malaysia *S. gremius* is no longer as rare as formerly thought, which he attributes in part, to cultivation of its hosts. The same three species also occur in Indochina (Inayoshi, 2001).

(2) Distribution of *Suastus gremius*

According to Corbet and Pendlebury (1992), the extra-Malayan distribution of the largest species, *Suastus gremius* "is rather curious; it occurs from Sri Lanka and India to Thailand and China, appears absent from Sundaland, but reappears in Sumba and Flores" in Indonesia (p.361). They remained silent on Indochina (Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam). Inayoshi (2001) includes Laos and Viet Nam based on literature records, but had examined specimens from Thailand only. Evidence of the species in Viet Nam comes from Metaye (1957, cited in Inayoshi 2001). Structured butterfly survey work in progress in Tam Dao National Park near Hanoi, in northern Viet Nam (Earthwatch Institute, 2003) may provide contemporary evidence when results are available. In the interim, Manh (1999) does not include it among only 13 hesperiid species recorded from Cat Tien National Park, but the latter survey may be convenience-based and far from exhaustive. Clearly the species still survives in (or has invaded) urban Saigon in the south (this paper), where many ornamental palm hosts are available for its larvae. *S. gremius* may still be rare in the IndoChinese region, but its apparent absence from adjacent Cambodia is not surprising given the country remains less explored entomologically than its neighbours, and is not evidence of geographic discontinuity within Indochina.

Convenience field observations in Viet Nam

Locality: VIET NAM, Ho Chi Minh City, District 3 (Saigon)

Habitat: Urban garden-parkland with small palms, within grounds of War History (War Remnants) Museum, adjacent Vietnam War Museum.

Date: 15 July 2002, at 1700 hrs (SEAST) [SE Asia Standard time = GMT+0700h]

Weather: "warm and overcast" as per author's field notebook (temp. 27°C, humidity 94%, cloudy; other specific meteorological data pertaining to this city, on this date and time of the observation event can be viewed at

<http://www.wunderground.com/history/station/48900/2002/7/15/DailyHistory.html>

A brownish, medium-sized, female skipper in good condition was seen in a fluttering low flight near some young ornamental bipinnate palms. When first observed, she was flying one metre above ground in an ellipse. The length of her elliptical flight was about 1 metre, and width variably about 0.3-0.5 m. The circuitous flight was aligned NE-SW adjacent a building wall. An outer palm marked one end, with the other end extended out into open space. The female repeated the elliptical flight several times over a minute or so (not timed). Although she flew very close to the palm during each circuit, at no time did she make tactile contact with the palm foliage - there was no evidence of movement of the pinnules on each approach and over pass.

After several circuits she settled with closed wings on the adaxial (upper) surface of an outer leaf pinnule of the uppermost frond (1m above ground). Her brownish hindwing underside, with diagnostic, sharply defined black post-median spots and single black cell spot were prominent - the observer being within 0.5 m was permitted a close visual inspection. After landing, facing outward, she edged slowly backward about 5 mm, taking a couple of steps in the form of a minor (relative to her body size) backward crawl along a largely horizontal pinnule. Her abdomen then extended slightly using muscular movements and deposited a single, blood-red/scarlet-colored, medium-sized, hemispherical, smooth egg on the adaxial surface of the pinnule (the same leaf surface on which she was settled). On retracting her abdomen, she quickly departed by flight, achieved by ascending directly upward a few centimetres above the frond, hovering momentarily (less than a second) and then departing linearly and horizontally outward in a broadly north-easterly direction at high speed. The habitat was watched for about 10-15 minutes thereafter, but she did not return to oviposit again.

Discussion

(1) Oviposition host

Corbet and Pendlebury (1992) list larval hosts of *S. gremius* as "Caryota, Cocos, Calamus etc" (p.361) (Arecaceae) inferring a broad range of genera are utilized. Khew (2003) confirms *Cocos nucifera* (coconut palm) as host in Singapore. The oviposition host in Viet Nam was not one of these genera, as I am familiar with each. *Chrysaliocarpus* - my guess at the time - is certainly a likely larval host, as in my experience other palm skippers (eg. *Cephrenes* spp.) are extensively oligophagous (Dunn, 1996), and this Madagascan palm genus is now ornamentally grown in tropical areas of the world (Jones, 1987).

(2) Egg

The egg of this Asian Hesperiine appears otherwise undocumented in 'hardcopy' texts. It was laid singly on the adaxial surface of the palm pinnule, and when freshly laid was scarlet, medium-sized, hemispherical, and smooth (as mentioned earlier). Outstanding illustrations of the egg, larva and pupa can be viewed *online* at Khew (2003). Khew comments that the "dome shaped" egg is "reddish in colour when fresh, turning a lightish grey after a day." His illustrations show a red micropyle with radiating pinkish bands, described as "ribs" but these do not appear structural. These pigmented ribbing patterns presumably develop over time, as I did not see them on the newly laid egg in Viet Nam. Khew also notes that eggs are laid singly, in agreement with my observation.

(3) Larval shelter

Corbet and Pendlebury (1992: 361) comment that "the larva [of *S. gremius*]... lives in a cylindrical cell made from a longitudinally folded [palm] leaf and densely covered with silk." Larval shelter construction seems *Cephrenes*-like based on illustrations provided by Khew (2003), and contains a 'double stitch pattern' characteristic of *Cephrenes augiades* in eastern Australia (Dunn, 2000). The pupal shelter is densely powdered, rather like that of the Australian *C. trichopepla* (Dunn, 2000). No larval shelters were found on the museum garden, ornamental in Saigon, which being small was easily searched.

(4) Habitat & Life history

Chin (2003) specifies the habitat of *S. gremius* in Malaysia to include both 'secondary growth' and 'rainforest', and provides an outstanding photo of a live adult female. Khew (2003) also provides vibrant illustrations of fresh adults, fully illustrates the life history (probably for the first time), and lists mangroves, parkland and suburban gardens as habitats in Singapore. A couple of photos of live adults have been included in this report courtesy of Khew. In the life history commentary for this species, Khew also mentions in passing, the backward crawl in pre-ovipositing females in Singapore, which is now supported by my single observation in garden-parkland in Viet Nam. This suggests, at least on the 'balance of probabilities', that the reverse crawl behavior could be frequent and widespread across the species' greater SE Asian populations. A reverse crawl immediately prior to oviposition has been reported previously in at least four genera of Trapezitinae in Australia (see Braby 1993 and references therein). The independent reports of Khew (2003) and the author (this paper) for *S. gremius* represent the first records of the behavior within the Hesperiinae, and beyond Australia. Co-occurrence in subfamilies that evolved and dispersed separately on the Australian (Trapezitine) and Asian plates (Hesperiine) infers the behavior is ancient, probably stemming from the origin of the Hesperiidae. This pre-oviposition behavior may prove widespread, although probably sporadic, among many other Asian skipper genera.

(5) Species identification

S. gremius is distinctive, not readily confused with other Malayan *Suastus* species (Khew 2003), all of which also occur in Viet Nam (Inayoshi, 2001). Moreover, Inayoshi lists no other *Suastus* species in Viet Nam that are not included in Corbet & Pendlebury's (1992) Malay Peninsula checklist (p.430). The unmistakable underside is illustrated by Corbet and Pendlebury (1992: plate 54: fig. 61) and also by Khew (2003). The female was seen by the author at close range and at length, hence her identification is 'beyond reasonable doubt', agreeing with available illustrations.

Suastus is now established in Singapore

A *Suastus* species was not seriously entertained as a likely contender for the Singaporean larvae I found in October 1999 and which I discussed at length in Dunn (2000). The fourth edition of Corbet & Pendlebury (1992: 430) maintained this Malayan, palm feeding genus as (historically) absent from Singapore, and moreover, rare in neighbouring Malaysia. At face value (at that time having no prior experience in Singapore on which to judge otherwise), this circumstantial data seemed 'beyond reasonable doubt' - the revised text was then only seven years old, and reckoned reasonably current, biogeographically at least. However, evidence is now available *online* that *Suastus gremius* has since become locally common in Peninsula Malaysia, and colonised Singapore during the mid 1990s (Khew *pers. comm.* 2003), along with a congener, *S. everyx* (Khew 2003). This unanticipated invasion now confounds my earlier identifications of hesperiine larvae on palms in Singapore, which (regrettably) could not be confirmed by rearing the juveniles (Dunn, 2000: 26). These larvae (and pupal exuviae) I suggested were "almost certainly *Cephrenes*" (p.25) based on "circumstantial evidence" (p.25) - namely, elimination of other candidates in accordance with the Corbet and Pendlebury's revised Singaporean faunal list. This seemed a reasonable assumption given the Island's fauna had been thoroughly studied over many decades.

Khew (2003) illustrates the life history of *Suastus gremius*, which includes a Singaporean larva that he confirmed (*pers. comm.* 2003) is a fourth instar. I have now re-examined my video images of the two fourth instar larvae I collected in the Singapore CBD on an ornamental *Rhapis* palm (probably *R. excelsior*). One of these fourth instars was described (Dunn, 2000: 26) and, indeed, its larval head pattern I commented seemed incongruent with an anticipated fourth instar *Cephrenes* larva. These re-examined video images, which include close-ups of the larval head, match those of *S. gremius* as illustrated by Khew (2003). In his experience, Khew (*pers. comm.* 2003) says that *S. gremius* in Singapore favours palms growing in exposed parklands, urban, and residential areas, whereas the rare and localised *S. everyx* has only been found in jungle reserves. Using his experiential reasoning, Khew believes my *Suastus* larvae would be *S. gremius*, not the latter (currently unillustrated *online*).

No video images were taken of my juveniles from other palm hosts, which included *Washingtonia* (from which the dark pupal exuviae were correctly obtained), *Licuala* (possibly some young larvae), and an undetermined bipinnate palm in Chinatown (several second instars). The pupal exuviae from *Washingtonia*, one of which had a still attached mature larval head capsule (Dunn, 2000: 26) probably also belong to *S.*

gremius, as its pupa is comparatively dark and shelter, heavily powdered. Khew (2003) does not presently illustrate the life history of the Asian palm dart, *Cephrenes acalle* for comparison, which might eliminate any ambiguity here and clarify some local larval hosts. Although he has not yet encountered *C. acalle* larvae himself, he confirms (*pers. comm.* 2003) the species is extant in Singapore, based on discussions with other Singaporean observers, but rare and usually not found without determined searching.

Concluding, the earlier said, "likely fourth instar *C. acalle* larva" from *Rhapis* described and illustrated by Dunn (2000: 24), has now been determined with certainty as *S. gremius*. The bipinnate palm, *Rhapis* sp. prob. *excelsior* represents a new larval host record for *S. gremius* in Sundaland. The other host genera on which juvenile hesperines were found (Dunn, 2000) need to be re-confirmed by rearing larvae to maturity, in light of the ambiguity of the skipper species involved.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figures 1 & 2: Male *Suastus gremius* perched in Singapore. (Photo credit: S.K. Khew; used with permission)

Acknowledgement

I thank Mr S.K. Khew for his informative comments on this species in Singapore, and kind offer of photographs for inclusion.

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Sociological and ethnographic reflections: *Observers of wildlife, familiar with public reactions to focussed, watching of insect behavior in Western countries, might be curious to know that whilst observing this oviposition event in Saigou, a passing female Vietnamese museum attendant, dressed in traditional 'butterfly outfit', gave me a confused glance. Her expression, caught out of the side of my eye, apparently inferred the same 'head-shaking' response of Westerners when they see, seemingly 'mind-vacated' individuals engaged in apparent time-wasted activities. It appears widely accepted that entomological focus, apparently without clear reason in the reckoning of others, is an indication of an unsound mind, even without props such as the infamous butterfly net! In Western culture, this age-old tool of the trade can now provoke verbal abuse from the 'conservation-obsessed', and on occasion in Australia may even result in a visit from the local police!*

For the psychosocially concerned, use of a videocam is far less obtrusive and seems more acceptable sociologically and ethnographically. Indeed, on several occasions in South-east Asia, other tourists, mostly Japanese, and on one occasion a happy-go-lucky Irishman I chanced upon at Kbal Spean in Cambodia, somehow felt compelled to join me photographing Asian butterflies - attractive or otherwise! A few happy snaps later of colorful, puddling jungle papilios and pierids and the Japanese were off. But, to my amazement, the ardent Irishman was not to be defeated by a couple of site tenacious, albeit wary, Indochinese Euploca butterflies! Melting in the torrid wet season humidity and blistering afternoon sun, he persevered amid curses at failed attempts and wasted film! Eventually he abandoned his chosen, yet photographically sombre males to continue guarding endlessly, like twin offended spirits, their intruded habitat of the 'River of a Thousand Lingas'. The littering of unexploded ordinances still lurking beyond those disconcerting, red-paint-splattered tree trunks - ever mindful of an anguished and haunting era - and which, for the adventurous butterfly observer presently define the 'cleared' jungle trail, made his task a little more anxiety prone than would be otherwise, no doubt! Nonetheless his photographic effort, which outlasted mine for these same two tirelessly patrolling crow butterflies, must be commended.

'Entomological focus' as a comical public indicator of declined mental health status is an intriguing psychosocial concept, indeed perhaps disturbing to those of us who take pride in and enjoy our hobby. But, given the odds of a normal distribution, ... there may well be a few fanatics in our entomological realm, and some like that Irishman may soon join? Fanaticism - "...redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim!" - George Santayana (1863-1952) (Santayana from Life of Reason: 1, cited in Foreman 1973 p.355). Reflecting on Santayana's apt definition reminds me of a curio from the early 20th century literature, perhaps a polite hint on moderation, and upon which I will close this saga.

"Reaching Caboolture [Queensland], we obtained lodgings at one of the local hotels, and, being very tired after a long day, retired early to rest. My companion was such an ardent entomologist, however, that I had barely fallen asleep before I was awakened to examine a very fine hemipterous specimen that he had secured in his bed. In all, four *Cimex*, were taken, so that our night's rest was a very troubled one. Mr Pottenger declared that other families of insects were also present in his bed, but, being utterly worn out by now, I drowsily exclaimed, "let 'em all bite." (Wilson 1921, p.68)

Quotation extracts from:

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SYSTEMATICS

DK Knihinicki & J Boczek: Studies on eriophyoid mites (Acaria: Eriophyoidea) of Australia: A new genus and seven new species associated with tea trees, *Melaleuca* spp. (Myrtaceae)

H Sutrisno & M Horak: Revision of the Australian species of *Hyalobathra* Meyrick (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae: Pyraustinae) based on adult morphology and with description of a new species

BE Heterick: Two new Australian *Monomorium* Mayr (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), including a highly distinctive species.

MD Schwartz & G Cassis: New genus and new species of myrmecomorphic plant bug from Australia (Heteroptera: Miridae: Mirini).

SA Belokobylskij, M Iqhal & AD Austin: First record of the subfamily Dirrhopinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from the Australian region, with a discussion of relationships and biology.

ECOLOGY

GA Bellis & AM Profke: Rainbow bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) as a monitoring tool for honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L.; Hymenoptera: Apidae).

GJ Stathas, NG Kavallieratos & PA Eliopoulos: Biological and ecological aspects of Chinese wax scale, *Ceroplastes sinensis* Del Guercio (Hemiptera: Coccoidea): a two-year study from Central Greece.

BEHAVIOUR

A Taliachich, WJ Bailey & EI Ghisalberti: Palatability and defense in the aposematic diurnal whistling moth, *Hecatesia enulans* Walker (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Agaristinae).

PHYSIOLOGY

S Raghu, P Halcoop & RAI Drew: Apodeme and ovarian development as predictors of physiological status in *Bactrocera cacuminata* (Ilering) (Diptera: Tephritidae).

WEED BIOCONTROL

CJ Lockett & WA Palmer: Rearing and release of *Homichloda barkeri* (Jacoby) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Alticinae) for the biological control of prickly acacia, *Acacia nilotica* ssp. *indica* (Mimosaceae) in Australia.

REC McFadyen, R Desmier de Chenn & A Sipayung: Biology and host specificity of the chromolaena stem gall fly, *Cecidochares connexa* (Macquart) (Diptera: Tephritidae).

PEST MANAGEMENT

PR Samson & AA Calder: Wireworm (Coleoptera: Elateridae) identity, monitoring and damage in sugarcane.

AL Bishop & IM Barchia: Relationships between the lucerne flea, *Sminthurus viridis* (L.) (Collembola: Sminthuridae), and damage to lucerne.

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PRESIDENT: *David Stewart* P.O. Box 2152, Rosebud Plaza, 3939,
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HON EDITOR: *Ray McMahon*, P.O. Box 549, Tullamarine, 3043.
rtmcmahon@students.latrobe.edu.au

EXCURSIONS SEC: *Peter Carwardine*, 5/154 Grange Road, Carnegie 3163.
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DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

Friday 17 October General Meeting - at new Museum location
Nick Porch Will present a talk on "the Biogeography and Ecology of
subfossil beetle assemblages in southeastern Australia
spanning the last 2 million years"

Sat & Sun 25 - 26 October Club Excursion to Gembrook

Friday 21 November 6:30 Council Meeting

Friday 12 December General Meeting - Members Night
Members and visitors will give short talks and slide presentations

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